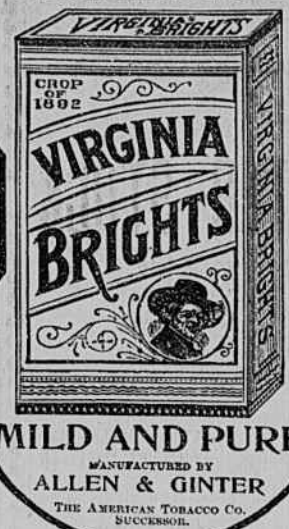


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IS IT DECADENCE?

A SHARP CRITICISM OF THE DO NOTHING TIME IN WHICH WE LIVE.

An Age of Mediocrity In Which About the Only Activity Is in the Direction of Fadism—There Are No Great Questions and No Pre-eminent Men.

It is a serious question whether we are in a period of decadence. The whole world appears to be in a condition of intellectual inactivity, or at least without those great mental struggles which characterized the recent past. We are numerously following fads, exercising the mind on trifles, reading and writing trash, and interested in few general problems. The long peace of the world has enervated men, especially as there have been no great problems of peace even. The preceding century closed in storm, the American and French revolutions having excited the energies of the world. The present century promises to close in a calm that breeds malaria. The last generation, active over the antislavery conflict and civil war, prolonged its excitement through the German wars against Austria and France. The present generation is relatively without interest; people have nothing specially great to think about. When it was a question of saving the country or settling great moral problems, men's thoughts were great and their activities on a corresponding scale. The world was undertaking gigantic tasks, and brains were in demand. The orator, the poet, the statesman were busy in their greatest creations. The intellect of the people was feverish. With universal discussion and discussion of weighty problems the times produced men like Beecher, Lincoln and Bismarck. Whittier wrote his "In War Time," the sanitary commission was created, the development of philosophy launched and Italy united. The world was doing something, and mankind was conspicuous for working as a whole or in great groups.

Of late, however, there is a widespread feeling that we have nothing to do, and the people, like idlers, are devising specious tasks for themselves, mostly means of recreation. We are in a period of dilettantism. It is the age of bric-a-brac in art, of ceremonies and entertainments in religion and of dress in society. Scholars gossip in clubs, instead of debate in lyciums, and college students are known chiefly as football players. No new philosophers have been conceived in this age, no great poems have appeared or remarkable adventures. It is an age of mediocrity, in which many come forward in every department, but none is conspicuous. The whole world has been recently convulsed over a wedding. A superficial book on home-ism has made the greatest success in literature. The principal interest in politics is an easy way to pay debts. Socialism is as deep as the public can see in to government. Claptrap interests men, and public officials are capitalists instead of statesmen.

Is all this an evidence of decadence, or is it inseparable from a long career of peace? When the great questions are settled must the people turn to the small? If anything important interested us we might go to war, whereas now peace is maintained by having nothing to fight for. Such a languid feeling as the present could hardly be raised to war. We are not interested enough to dispute seriously, much less fight. We are making some progress, indeed, in the refinements of life, and perhaps advancing in a slow way by catching up with great projects conceived when men were more vigorous. But when an age is refining it is usually doing little else. The people are polishing what they forged in the last generation. This is a period of rhetoric, when men try to say nicely instead of think greatly. It gives fewer thoughts to the world than it restates. By correcting and beautifying the more vigorous productions of other periods it does its characteristic work.

Life is not as serious as it was 30 years ago, when men lived for something. The question then was how to do, whereas it is now how to live. Instead of acting men are behaving, and the amenities of life are our chief interest.

Trying chiefly to get rid of the attractions of society, we are learning to use what we have rather than getting anything for humanity. We are in a period of adjustment and exercised over what to do with ourselves. The present problem is mainly to keep men good, or rather to keep them proper. Social life is about the highest problem we are considering. Men need to be recalled to the vigorous. The struggles of life must be entered to produce a strong people. There is need of some of the old Puritan earnestness. Life should be more serious and lived on a larger scale. The pleasures take too prominent a place, as in the beginning of the eighteenth century. The ablest minds are largely engaged in amusing the people. The drama is the chief department that prospers, and the greatest thing now seen is an opera or pageant. We are celebrating great deeds instead of doing them. If we are to be much in the near future we must look around for greater undertakings. There is enough to be done to make heroes. Though no new worlds can be discovered or races freed, there are lines of enterprise waiting to be pursued. Africa is yet to be settled and reduced to civilization; a new basis is to be found for social life; religion is to be conformed to science, and perhaps a new Instauratio, greater than Bacon's, is to be applied to interpret the world. The nineteenth century need not go out in a dwindling anticlimax.—Independent.

Her Purchase Was Wrapped Up.

I went into a Columbus avenue drug store last night for a moment's chat with my friend the head clerk. The conversation wandered into the genus customer, and many a funny yarn of the wiles and ways of the buyer were spun. But none of them touched the thing I saw as I stood there.

A woman came in and asked for a postage stamp, laying two coppers on the counter gingerly as she did so. My friend passed out a vermilion abomination and she said:

"Yes, thank you, but don't you wrap up the goods you sell?"

"Yes, generally, but not postage stamps as a rule."

"Well, I wish you would put a paper around this stamp. Stamps are horrid to carry in one's pocket. They stick so."

And the long suffering young man wrapped the postage stamp up in white paper, tied it with a red string and handed out the parcel to his customer without a smile.

—Boston Record.

The Bicycle Vocabulary.

It looks as if in the very near future the bicyclist will have as elaborate and exclusive a vocabulary as the baseball reporter has manufactured for the victories of the national game. Bike, biking, biker, bikess, biked and bikless are already in evidence.—Boston Herald.

NO JOKE AFTER ALL.

Each Thought It Was One Until They began to Compare Notes.

"I went to my husband's office yesterday afternoon to get some money," said the little woman in the gray gown as she settled back in her chair to tell her "dear friend" the latest family joke. "I was down town shopping and had spent every cent I had."

"Of course," said the dearest friend. "That's the way I always do too. Did he grumble about it?"

"No. He wasn't at his office. That's where the joke comes in."

"Joke!" exclaimed the dearest friend. "I should have thought you would have been mad enough to—almost swear."

"I was at first," admitted the little woman in gray, "but when they told me he had gone home early I got over being mad, because I knew he'd gone home to have a quiet little chat with me before dinner, and that he'd be as mad as a hornet when he found I wasn't there. It made me laugh to think of him standing around the house swearing because I wasn't home after he'd left the office early to go to me. I didn't hurry either. I took my time, because, you know, it does a man good to have these little disappointments once in awhile. If he always found his wife at home, he wouldn't half appreciate it."

"Was he very mad?" asked the friend, with interest.

"No. That's the funny part of it."

"I don't see what there is funny about that."

"Why, the servant told him I'd gone down town, intending to go to his office, and he said it made him laugh to think how mad I'd be when I found he had gone home. So he had just sat there and chuckled all the time until I came home."

"It was all right then, I suppose?" said the dearest friend.

"No, indeed it wasn't."

"But you were both in good humor?"

"No, we weren't. That's the very funniest part of the whole story. When we each found that the other thought it was a good joke, we were both so mad that we didn't speak for a whole evening."—Chicago Times-Herald.

HELEN GOULD'S FINE HOME.

Great Care Taken by the Heiress in Maintaining Lyndhurst's Surroundings.

At Helen Gould's home at Lyndhurst, on the Hudson, the lawns and gardens about the place are gay with flowers and foliage plants each summer, about 25,000 being set out every spring. Yellow and white are the favorite colors for the house. Every morning a basket of greenhouse treasures is sent in to Miss Gould, who, as a rule, arranges them herself. She can literally live in a bower of roses if she chooses. Although yellow and white are the favorite colors for house decorations, for personal use Miss Gould prefers the violet and its royal sister, heart's ease. A pot of mignonette always stands in her boudoir, and these three flowers in their fragrance and modesty seem the most fitting emblems to be associated with the fair mistress of Lyndhurst.

In winter as well as in summer Miss Gould has made Lyndhurst her home almost continuously since her father's death. Her companions are her youngest brother, Frank, and her cousin, Miss Northrup. Her brothers, George and Edwin, both married, have separate establishments, the one at Lakewood, the other at Tarrytown. The gates at Lyndhurst are always open, Sunday alone excepted, and any one is at liberty to enter and make a tour of the greenhouses, of which there are about 20 separate rooms, not counting the "hospital," as Miss Gould calls the room where delicate or drooping plants and seedlings are cared for. The main greenhouse, the center one, and from which the others extend on each side at right angles, is built in the form of a mosque and is 85 by 75 feet.—Cor. Minneapolis Tribune.

The Earliest Surnames.

The earliest surnames were probably those bestowed by the Romans and Greeks, though it may be said that the Jews of a still earlier date had surnames to some extent. In most cases, however, the surnames of the Hebrews were tribal and not permanent as are those of today.

The very earliest surnames in the modern sense of that term date from the middle ages, when nobles were known by the name of their domains and common people by the name of their dwelling places. A great many surnames were bestowed on account of personal peculiarities, such as Long, Short, Stout, Small, etc.; others on account of trade, such as Saddler, Smith, Baker, Weaver, Fowler, Gardener, etc. A third class took names from the places where they resided. Examples in this class are John Hill and John Underhill, the first John living on the hill and the second in the little valley under the bluff.

There were few, if any, surnames in England prior to the time of the Norman conquest, and in Ireland they did not become common until 1455. The German Jews did not use surnames until about 1825, and in many countries of Asia they are still unknown.—St. Louis Republic.

Sponging Houses.

Lord Beaconsfield, in "Henrietta Temple," as well as Thackeray, has portrayed Solomon's sponging house, the temporary abode of the impudent Colonel Crawley, "splendid with dirty old gilt cornices, dingy yellow satin hangings," and the like. "A quick eyed Jew boy locks and unlocks the door for visitors, and a dark eyed maid in curling papers brings in the tea."

Just opposite the sponging house in Curator street, John Scott lived in lodgings, with the pretty wife with whom he had run away in the days before fame had come to him as Lord Eldon. Rawdon Crawley, it will be remembered, had for society in duress vile "Captain Raggs and the Hon. Descease, who lived when at home in the Temple." "There's a doctor of divinity up stairs," confines Moss, "and five gents in the coffee room who know a good glass of wine when they see it. There is a table d'hôte at half past five in the front parlor and cards and music afterward."—Temple Bar.

The Feet of a Fly.

It is not true that flies are enabled to walk on the ceiling by means of sucking disks. Each of the six feet is provided with a pair of little cushions and two hooks. The cushions are covered with hairs which are kept moist by a secretion causing them to adhere to a smooth surface. The hooks help the insects to walk over rough surfaces.

Heavily Laden.

"Farewell."
"Farewell."
"Forever."
"Forever."

He left her with heavy heart. His own heart was by no means light, and then there was the marble heart she had given him.—Detroit Tribune.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

New York Stock Market.

NEW YORK, Aug. 30.—The stock market to-day was characterized by an improved tone although the volume of business was lighter than yesterday. In view of the fact that the engagement of gold for shipment by to-morrow's steamers were larger than had been expected and that a million and a quarter of gold had been forwarded from the sub-treasury, the speculation was remarkably firm. The street felt assured that the government bond syndicate would reimburse the Treasury for most of the gold taken out and the syndicate deposited a million in gold before the close of business, taking legal tenders in exchange, thus placing the reserve at about \$100,071,000. Speculation was heavy at the close but prices are in the main higher than yesterday's final sales.

Closing stocks were as follows:
Atchafalpa, 20½; Adams Express, 149; Baltimore and Ohio, 65; Chesapeake and Ohio, 31½; Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, 91; Chicago Gas, 63½; C. O. C. and St. Louis, 49; Del. Lackawanna and Western, 163½; Distillers and Cattle Feeders Co., 21½; Erie, 9½; Erie preferred, 25; Great Northern preferred, 127; Lake Shore, 151½; Lead Trust, 35; Louisville and Nashville, 63½; National Cordage, 10½; National Cordage preferred, 14½; N. J. Central, 109½; Norfolk and Western preferred, 15; Northern Pacific preferred, 12½; Northwestern, 105½; Northwestern preferred, 147; N. Y. Central, 104½; N. Y. and New England, 61; Pacific Mail, 30½; Pullman Palace, 172; Reading, 19½; Rock Island, 83½; St. Paul, 76½; St. Paul and Omaha, 44½; Southern Pacific, 25½; Sugar Refinery, 110½; Union Pacific, 15½; Western Union, 94½; General Electric, 37½; Southern, 18½; Southern preferred, 41½; Tobacco, 93½; Tobacco preferred, 109.

Chicago Market.

CHICAGO, Aug. 30.—Wheat climbed to to-day helped by firmer cables but backed down later, scared by gold export talk and light clearances, closing ½ lower, corn but ¼ and oats ½ but provisions made slight gains.

The leading futures ranged to-day as follows:

Wheat, No. 2—August, opening, 61, closing, 61½; September, opening, 61½, closing, 61½; December, opening, 63½, closing, 63½. Corn No. 2—August, opening, 36½, closing, 36½; September, opening, 36½, closing, 36½; October, opening, 35½, closing, 35½; December, opening, 30½, closing, 30½. Oats No. 2—September, opening, 19, closing, 18½; October, opening, 18½, closing, 18½; May, opening, 22½, closing, 21½. Mess pork, per bbl.—September, opening, 9.00, closing, 9.00; October, opening, 9.25, closing, 9.25; January, opening, 9.50, closing, 9.50. Lard, per 100 lbs.—September, opening, 5.75, closing, 5.75; October, opening, 5.87½, closing, 5.87½; January, opening, 5.90, closing, 5.90. Short ribs, per 100 lbs.—September, opening, 5.75, closing, 5.75; October, opening, 5.62½, closing, 5.62½; January, opening, 5.67½, closing, 5.67½.

Cash quotations were as follows:

Flour: straight, 3.40; 3.40; spring patents, 3.90; 4.25; bakers, 2.10; 3.50; No. 2 spring wheat, 61½; 61½; No. 3 spring wheat, 61½; 61½; No. 2 red, 61½; 61½; No. 2 corn, 36½; No. 3 yellow, 36½; No. 2 oats, 18½; No. 2 white, 21½; 21½; No. 3 white, 20½; 21½; No. 2 rye, 40; No. 2 barley, nominal; No. 3, 33½; 41; No. 4, 30½; 37. No. 1 flaxseed, 1.01; 1.01½; prime timothy seed, 4.05; mess pork, per bbl., 9.00; 9.25; lard, per 100 lbs., 5.85; short ribs sides, (loose), 5.60; 5.65; short salted shoulders (boxed) 5½; 5½; short clear sides, (boxed), 6¼; 6¼; whiskey, distillers finished goods per gallon, 1.25; sugars; cut loaf, 5.13; granulated, 4.69; standard A, 4.56.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, Aug. 30.—Money on call easy at 1 per cent, last loan 1, closed 1 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 3½ @ 4½ per cent. Sterling silver firm with actual business in bankers' bills. Sterling exchange firm with actual business in bankers' bills at 4.89½ @ 4.90 for demand and 4.88½ @ 4.89 for sixty days; posted rates, 4.89 @ 4.90 and 4.90 @ 4.91. Commercial bills, 4.88½. Silver certificates, 67 @ 67½. Government bonds firm. State bonds inactive. Railroad bonds strong.

Cincinnati Produce Market.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Aug. 30.—Flour dull. Wheat firm; No. 2 red, 36. Corn firm; No. 2 mixed, 36. Oats quiet; No. 2 mixed, 21 @ 21½. Rye steady; No. 2, 42. Lard easier; 5.75. Bulk meats steady, 5.87½. Bacon steady; 6.62½ @ 6.75. Whiskey steady; sales 549 barrels 1.22. Butter strong. Sugar steady. Eggs quiet, 9. Cheese firmer.

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Are you taking SIMMONS' LIVER REGULATOR, the "KING OF LIVER MEDICINES"? That is what our readers want, and nothing but that. It is the same old friend to which the old folks pinned their faith and were never disappointed. But another good recommendation for it is, that it is BETTER THAN PILLS, never grips, never weakens, but works in such an easy and natural way, just like nature itself, that relief comes quick and PUNISH, it feels new all over. It. Everybody needs take a liver remedy, and everyone should take only Simmons' Liver Regulator.

Be sure you get it. The Red Z is on the wrapper. J. H. Zeilin & Co., Philadelphia.

A slang term—denoting lots of rubbing, fast falling into disuse since the introduction of almost universal use of

Which will you use, the Washing Powder or the elbow grease? The first knocks the dirt out, the other knocks you out. GOLD DUST is sold by all grocers, in large packages. Price 25 cents. Made only by

THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY,
St. Louis. New York. Boston. Philadelphia.

Could Pray in French.

There is a certain young man about town today who, in the excitement and pleasures of the life he leads now, has almost forgotten how to say his prayers. Many years ago, however, when he was a cute little child with big blue eyes and golden curls, he was famous at his prayers. He could even pray in French. His mother, who was very proud of her little Tru—she rejoiced in the unusual Christian name of Truman—engaged a French nurse to look after him, and it was the nurse who taught the little fellow to pray in French. When the proud mother was made acquainted with the wonderful progress of her boy, she was overwhelmed with joy. When the women of her set dropped in to call upon her, the precocious child was trotted out to say his prayers in French for the wonder and admiration of the visitors. This continued for some time, until little Tru grew weary of it. One day he muttered. He would not say his prayers. His mother coaxed and threatened by turns, but the little boy was obstinate, and finally driven to desperation he said:

"I don't want to say my prayers, 'cause Jesus must be awful tired 'o hearin' me prayin' all the time." "Sides, I don't think he understands French."—Philadelphia Record.

The Church North.

The Methodist Episcopal church, sometimes denominated the Church North, has 25,861 organizations in the United States and owns 23,844 churches, having a seating capacity of 6,302,708. The value of the church property is estimated at \$98,732,408, and the membership, according to the eleventh census, was 2,240,354.

The Moslems have two festivals of special importance, the Greater Bairam and the Lesser Bairam. The former is in memory of Abraham offering his son Isaac and lasts four days.

Equal parts of white shellac and alcohol is a permanent fixative for crayon and charcoal sketches. Spray it on evenly with an artist's atomizer.

TRUSTEES' SALE.

TRUSTEES' SALE OF LIFE ESTATE IN city property.—By virtue of authority vested in me by that certain deed of trust to me, executed by J. S. Perry, bearing date on the 17th day of August, 1895, and recorded in the office of the clerk of the Hustings Court of the city of Roanoke, Va., in deed book 98, page 308, I will, on SATURDAY, THE 28TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, at 12:30 o'clock p. m., on the premises, proceed to sell for cash, the life estate by the curtesy in the following real estate, to-wit: 1st. House and lot, together with all appurtenances thereto belonging, situated on the northeast corner of Tazewell and Henry streets (Franklin road and First street southwest). 2nd. Lot fronting 48 feet on the north side of Tazewell street (Franklin road) 60 feet west of Henry (First) street southwest, for further description of which reference is made to deed books 14 page 187 and 17 page 230. In such sale the properties will first be offered separately and then together and the sale producing the most money will be adopted.

JNO. K. SIMMONS, Trustee.

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